

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00196 011012Z

45

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 NIC-01 ACDA-19 SAB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 IO-14

TRSE-00 MC-02 OMB-01 DRC-01 AID-20 IGA-02 /194 W

----- 036682

R 310901Z MAR 74

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 879

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0196

E.O. 11652: GS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET-IRAQI RELATIONS

1. SERIES OF HIGH LEVEL SOVIET VISITORS LED BY MINDEF
MARSHALL GRECHKO (MARCH 23-26) AND MINISTER OF INTERIOR
SHILIKOV (MARCH 28-APRIL 1) ARE SEEN HERE AS JOINT EFFORT
TO DRAMATIZE USSR'S STRONG POSITION IN IRAQ AND ITS FULL
BACKING FOR REGIME'S KURDISH POLICY AND TO SHOW THAT IRAQ
IS NEITHER ISOLATED NOR BEING LEFT OUT OF SOVIET-ARAB
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CONSULTATIONS. EVEN HIGHER LEVEL SOVIET VISITOR FOR

SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF APRIL 9TH TREATY SEEMS A POSSIBILITY.

2. MARSHALL GRECHKO'S VISIT APPEARED ON SURFACE TO BE PRIMARILY GOOD WILL MISSION AND RCC VICE CHAIRMAN SADDAM HUSSEIN LEFT FOR INDIA DAY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL. VISIT WAS CUT SHORT BY ONE DAY, PRESUMABLY FOR GRECHKO TO ATTEND POLITBURO MEETING MARCH 27. HE TOOK TRIP OUT OF BAGHDAD BY PLANE ON MARCH 25 BUT DESTINATION WAS NOT REVEALED. HE REPORTEDLY EXCHANGED MESSAGES WITH KURDISH LEADERS, REITERATING STRONG SOVIET BACKING FOR REGIME'S AUTONOMY PLAN. NEW ARMS PURCHASES ALSO DISTINCT POSSIBILITY GIVEN IRAQ'S OIL REVENUES AND NERVOUSNESS OVER IRAN AND KURDS.

3. FOLLOWING RESOLUTION OF CONFLICT OVER PRICE SOVIETS WILL PAY FOR CURRENT OIL PURCHASES (MOSCOW 3467), SOVIET RELATIONSHIP WITH IRAQ APPEARS TO BE IN PERIOD OF CONSOLIDATION AND NO DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENTS ANTICIPATED DESPITE THESE HIGH LEVEL VISITS. LOWRIE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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